

SLOUCH by Jim Earle

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK CLASSES OF 1979, 1978, & 1977



OPINION

Understand A&M

A&M thinks it has a problem. The news about Texas A&M has not been entirely favorable lately, and that upsets some of the administrators. For instance, at a recent luncheon for student leaders, President Jarvis Miller said the institution's major problem is its image. People just don't understand, he said, and the elite students around the table nodded in agreement. To help solve that problem, A&M hired a public relations firm earlier this semester to boost its image. Miller reported the results have been good. Several positive articles have appeared in the media — articles that tell good things about the University. Hiring a PR firm is fine; it's one way to let people know the complete A&M story. Another way of letting people know the complete story is exploring the institution's problems, particularly those accompanying its transition from an all-male cow college to the things that President Miller and others want it to be recognized for now. The recent coverage that upsets the administration has concerned parts of the story they would prefer to keep on campus. The stories have explored the problems at A&M, especially relating to women. They show the institution in transition, and that's what Texas A&M is. They show the institution dealing with its problems. No one argues that A&M's accomplishments should be hidden. That part of the truth is OK for exposure, even possible overexposure if it will attract more money and better students and faculty. It's the other part of the truth — the part about problems — that administrators want hidden until "solved." But that cheats the public. President Miller wants people to understand Texas A&M. So do we. We think understanding includes both the bad and the good.

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 14, 1979

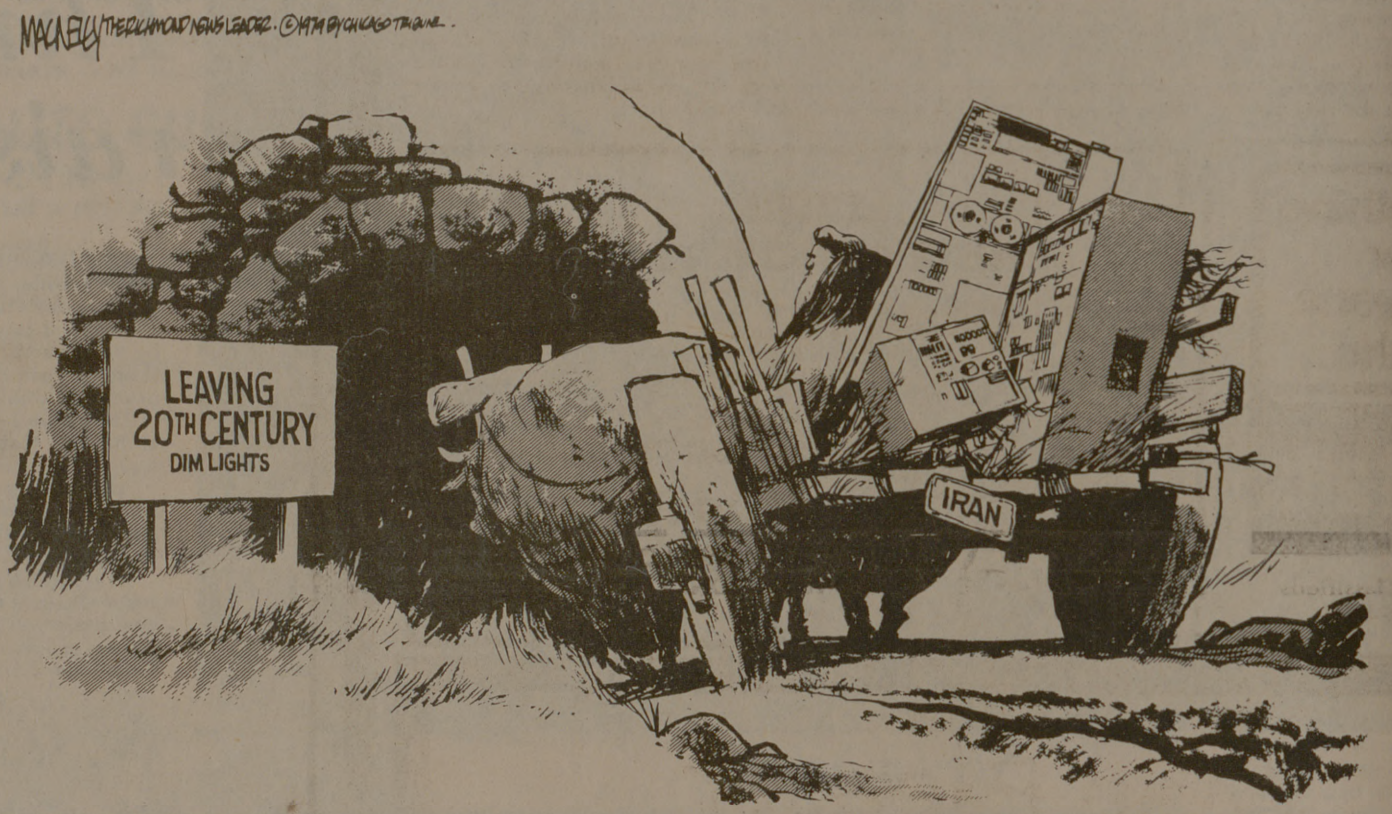
BRODER Over-reaching, not underachieving have caused failures in presidency

By DAVID S. BRODER
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — The only good thing to be said about the continuing agony in Tehran is that it has put a quietus on the presidential campaigning here in the United States. And in that enforced silence, it is possible to think — perhaps for the last time — about the top office to be filled in the first election of the new decade. That was the objective which drew two dozen people to an early 19th century house, surrounded by a park, in a quiet corner of Mr. Jefferson's university, for two days two weeks ago. The conversation at the White Burkett Miller Center of Public Affairs of the University of Virginia was informal and off-the-record, designed mainly to forward the work of a committee of the National Academy of Public Administration, which will be making a report on the presidency next year. But for those who were included in the group because they will be covering the 1980 presidential campaign, the perspectives of the assembled scholars challenged a good deal of the conventional wisdom about what needs to be done to restore the office to its proper place in the political and governmental spheres.

The conventional wisdom, it seems fair to say, is that we need a bigger person than Jimmy Carter to fill the presidency. What was suggested here was that we may need, even more urgently, a smaller and more flexible notion of what a president is and what he can do. This was, let me hasten to say, hardly a Carter rally. Far more critical things were said in praise of his stewardship. But the comments heard here raised a substantial question, at least in this listener's mind, about whether the "cure" for what ails the presidency lies in a fresh application of activism by one of the Carter challengers keen to breathe new vigor into the White House by a transfusion of his own excess energy. Most of those who gathered here were, in one sense or another, "President's men." They were scholars of the presidency, students of public attitudes toward the presidency, holders of high-level jobs in the Carter administration or its predecessors. Yet, the notion that kept bobbing back to the top of the discussion was the somewhat heretical thought that the presidency is in trouble, not because recent occupants of the Oval Office have been of insufficient

stature, but because their concept — and ours — of the office has been inflated out of proportion. The idea of the presidency, it was argued, has been bent out of shape by all of the demands that have been placed on the office. People campaign too hard and too long to get there, make too many promises to too many people about what they will accomplish, and then work too frantically on too many fronts to keep from "failing" by the exaggerated standards which they — and we — have set. As a result, the presidency has lost the flexibility, the coiled-spring power, which is vital to the nation, and probably to the world, when a challenge of truly presidential dimension comes along. It was a fascinating experience to listen to people, who for two decades, in some cases, have been advising presidents on how to accumulate and exercise power, now say the clearest requirement for a successful presidency is to limit its objectives and resist extraneous or secondary demands. If it was not exactly a suggestion to "think small," it was certainly a command to "be realistic about what a President can do."

Make fewer promises. Give up more restricted menu of legal "musts." Stick to the big issues. Budget. Share more of the blame — with the Cabinet. This is to survival in the presidency that is suggested here. Some of those present said that the implied by this prescription was Dwight D. Eisenhower, a thought bothered most of the Democrats in the room. Others said it sounded like a dating speech for Jerry Brown, who bothered those Democrats even more. If it was not that, it was certainly implied against the muscular or heavy approach to the presidency, embodied in the speeches of John Kennedy and Jimmy Carter not to overindulge in his own capacity, if, like Harry Truman, he should beat the odds and get a chance. The failures that have weakened the presidency, they seemed to be saying, have resulted from over-reaching and underachieving. It is a point worth bearing in mind. (c) 1979, The Washington Post Company



LETTERS A&M Corps may be discriminatory, but suing is wrong way to find out

Editor: I would like to make a reply to your editorial of Dec. 12. It is apparent to me that you did not know both sides of the story of the alleged sex discrimination in the Corps. I would like to attempt to enlighten you on the subject. As is universally true, Man resists change. The Corps is no different. The best medicine for this is to institute change gradually and relatively painlessly. The Corps was doing this. The first year, the women cadets had no uniforms nor did they live on the quad. The second year they had this and by the third year there was a woman unit commander. I may point out that A&M had women in the Corps two years before the service academies, and they too are having their growing pains. Last year was the first year the Waggies shared "Guard Room" duties. And most important, the general attitude of the males was one of acceptance. That is, until Ms. Zentgraf filed her suit. She obviously was not satisfied with the speed of the changes and wanted some privileges for herself that probably would have been given to the women in the near future anyway. Her selfishness has only served to hurt the women in the Corps. That opinion of RV's that you mentioned is a direct result of Ms. Zentgraf's action. It has built up as much, if not more, animosity in the male cadets towards the women, than when they were first admitted.

Another effect of the publicity she has received has been to effectively lower the number of women in the Corps. W-1, which for the past three years has averaged about 40 freshmen, started this year with 10. I shall not judge whether the Corps is discriminatory; that is up to the judge. I'm just saying this is the wrong way to find out. — B. Tinker '79

Restraining Reveille

Editor: Due to the increasing number of maimed or otherwise mutilated 250-pound basketball and football players around the nation, we, the seniors of Company E-2 (mascot company) — keepers of that crazed, demented, child-eating canine Reveille — are hereby proposing several solu-

tions to this most serious problem. Solution 1 — Shoot her. Solution 2 — Have her teeth pulled out. Solution 3 — Inject her with PCP, chain her legs together, and place a sack over her head. Solution 4 — Forbid the making of any noise at basketball and football games. Please note that even a peaceful, tranquil hamster would tend to get a little excited at an Aggie event, as in fact do most Aggies. We will further welcome any helpful solutions to this most grave predicament. We do apologize for any injuries incurred to this date, and will continue our efforts to reasonably restrain Reveille, yet still allow the school mascot to represent the spirit imbued in Texas A&M University. As a result of this last incident, Reveille will no longer be allowed to participate in any basketball bootlines. — John M. LaCrosse

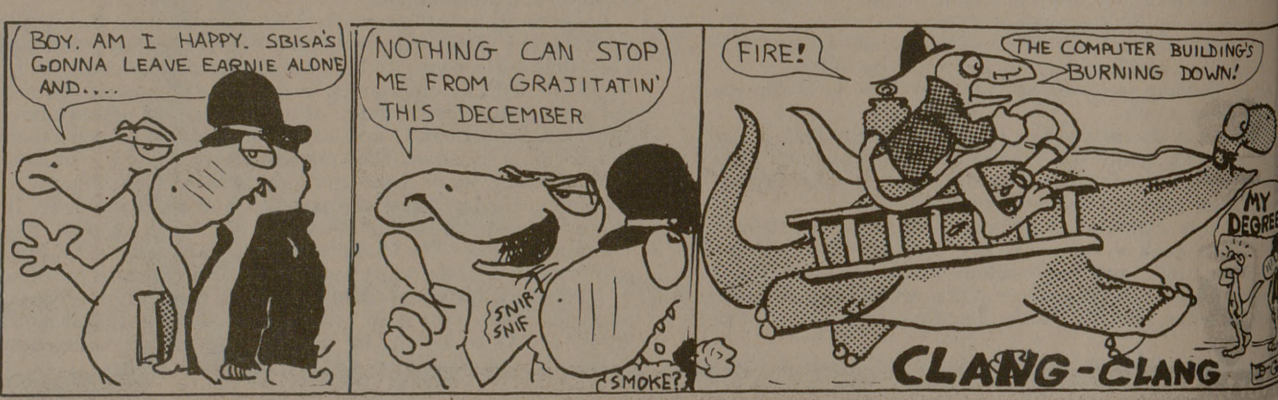
Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 16 other signatures.

Human decency
Editor: Before I begin, this letter has nothing to do with "good" or "bad" Ags — just plain, human decency. I'm really upset about something that happened on campus Tuesday night, December 11th. A close friend of mine was riding her bicycle on the street on the way across campus to visit with some friends. A car struck her and knocked her over, and while, fortunately, she was not seriously injured, she was bruised pretty badly and shaken up quite a bit. What's gotten me upset is the fact that the driver of the car that hit her did not stop; he or she just kept going. There is no excuse for a driver of a car not stopping to see if a person he or she hit is alright or not. Anyone who would do such a thing must be one of the lowliest things on earth. Thank goodness most people would stop and help others out. Driver, stop and think about this: what if one of your friends (or you) had been on that bicycle? Maybe next time you start tearing across campus, you'll think about that and slow down. And next time you hit somebody (hopefully, never again), have the decency to stop and see if they're OK. — Julia Humphries, '79
Graduate Student

that the freshman class was not represented by its elected senators. From our understanding, it is our duty as freshman senators to represent the best of the Class of '83. In voting on the Silver Taps bill and on all other issues before the senate, we do our best to represent the best of the man class. We voted for the passage of the Silver Taps bill, and we both feel that we have valid reasons for our votes. Admittedly, the student survey taken the week prior to the senate meeting, the freshmen voted in opposition to the bill, but freshmen that we talked to shortly before the senate meeting had reversed their opinions. On the Wednesday of the meeting, I talked with over one hundred freshmen and after learning the pros and cons of the bill, thus, from this sampling, we concluded that the overall opinion of the man class concerning the Silver Taps had changed. From this standpoint, we were representing the Class of '83. If you would like to express your opinions, please feel free to call us. — Debbie Grove, fall — 845-7274, spring — 845-3172. — Tim Timmerman, fall — 845-7274, spring — 845-4565. — Debbie Grove, — Tim Timmerman

Representing '83
Editor: This letter is written primarily for the Class of '83 in response to the letter saying

THOTZ



By Doug Graham

CLANG-CLANG